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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned Confirmation No. Not Yet Assigned  
Applicants : Volker HAECKH, et al.  
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Docket No. : 038724.57896US  
Customer No. : 23911

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Commissioner for Patents  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the claims and abstract prior to the examination of the application.